

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

1961

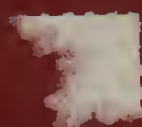
Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer
of Health

G. F. BUCKLEHURST, MD, Lond., BS, MRCS, LBCP, DPH

WITH WHICH IS INCLUDED THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND HOUSING MANAGER

C. J. CLARK, MRSH., FAPHE



HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR:

1961

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor Mrs: G.E. Fortune, J.P.

Committees concerned with matters of Public Health

Public Health and Housing Committee

(Public Health Committee and Housing
Committee amalgamated in 1953)

Highways Committee

Responsible for public cleansing,
refuse disposal and sewage disposal.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Councillor R.V. Rice (Chairman)
Councillor J. Conyon (Vice-Chairman)
The Chairman of the Council
Councillor I. Fowler
" W.R. Garreau
" T.A. Greer
" L.A. Rook
" Mrs. P.A. Sandercock
" R.V. Sidnell
" C.E. Taber
" J.F.C. Waller

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF - 1961

Medical Officer of Health
and Principal Medical
Officer, Area No. 2. K.C.C.

G.L. Brocklehurst M.D. (Lond.)
B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H.

Official Address:

34 Grosvenor Place, Margate.
'phone Thanet 22201.

Senior Public Health Inspector C.J. Clark, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

Meat and Other Foods Inspector's Certificate of the Royal
Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Duties:

Statutory duties of a Public Health Inspector.
Housing Management.
Shops Act Administration.
Public Lighting and Petroleum.

Additional Public Health Inspector W.F. Weller, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

Meat and Other Foods Inspector's Certificate of the Royal
Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Duties:

Statutory duties of a Public Health Inspector
Shops Act Administration.
Housing Management.
Public Lighting and Petroleum.

Clerical Staff:

Miss P.M. Flight (January 1956 -
September 1961)

Mrs. B.L. Bels

Miss H.F. Wilson (November 1961)

General Assistant and Rodent Operators:

R. Watson

J. McDonnell

KENT COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES STAFF -- 1961

in the Herne Bay Urban District

Health Visitor, School Nurses and Infant Life Protection Officers:	Miss D.A. Tremble, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Miss O. Revill, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
Tuberculosis Health Visitor:	Miss M. Brangan, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I., H.V.
Midwives:	Mrs. Shipton, S.R.N., S.C.M. Miss Curzons, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Home Nurses:	Mrs. D.M. Thompson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., R.F.N. Miss O. Sanders, S.R.N., S.F.N., Q.N. Miss C. Dory, S.R.N. Miss Haigh, S.R.N.
Domestic Help Area Organizer:	Mrs. A. Kingston
District Officer:	H.T. Suckling
Assistant District Officer:	D.H. Bartlett
Registrar of Births and Deaths:	D.S. Ryeland
School Enquiry Officer:	K.W. Ford

Other Staff: South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

Chest Physician and Adviser
on After-care of Tuberculosis: Owen Clarke, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Council Offices,
Herne Bay.

July 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my nineteenth Annual Report of the Health of Herne Bay, for the year 1961, with which is included the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The vital statistics of the urban district show an increase in the population (as estimated by the Registrar General) of some 160 people. An increase in the Birth Rate is shown, 12.42 in 1961 as compared with 12.19 in 1960. The total number of births increased from 225 in 1960 to 231 in 1961. The Death Rate was 15.05 compared with the comparable rate for England and Wales of 12.0. This can be accounted for by elderly retired people taking up residence in the town, and the tendency for younger people to leave the area to take up work in industrial areas of the country. Seven deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, giving a mortality rate per 1,000 births of 30.3 compared with 21.6 for England and Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was no outbreak of infectious disease and no cases of poliomyelitis occurred.

HOUSING

The Council during the year, completed the programme of slum clearance prepared in 1955, with the exception of one house outstanding. Details are given by the Senior Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Health Services provided in the town, through the National Health Service Act, are set out in the Report in some detail: they are available to all the inhabitants, and they are adequate.

Mention should again be made of much good work carried out in the district during the year by members of the staff of the Health Services operated by the County Council, with particular reference to the many and varied duties performed by Health Visitors, Midwives, Home Nurses, Children's Welfare Officers, District Officers Domestic and Home Helpers, etc., and also the various voluntary organisations in the town such as the W.V.S., Old People's Welfare Committee, the British Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Association and others. These workers do much for the comfort and well-being of the inhabitants of the town, and their work is greatly appreciated by the people concerned.

APPRECIATION

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation for their support and encouragement during the year.

My thanks are also due to all members of the Health Department for the loyal and efficient way in which they have carried out their duties: to my colleagues in other Departments: to the Staffs of the Kent County Health Services and the Regional Hospital Board Services covering Herne Bay District, and to the Medical Practitioners practising in the area, for their willing co-operation and assistance at all times in the public health work of our town.

I have the honour to be Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant

G. L. Brocklehurst

Medical Officer of Health and Principal
Medical Officer, Area No. 2, Kent County Council.

HERNE BAY URBAN DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (including inland water - 8,566 acres) 323 acres)	8,889
Population, 1961 (Registrar General - Mid year)	20,650
* Rateable Value (1st April 1962)	£355,925
* Estimated sum represented by the ld. rate	£ 1,460
* Note: Figures shown are for 1962.	

VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Mothers and Infants

	<u>Herne Bay</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>		
Number M. 112 F. 119 Total	231	-
Rate per 1000 population	11.19	-
*Adjusted Birth Rate	12.42	17.4
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	8.66%	-
<u>Stillbirths:</u>		
Number M. 2 F. 6 Total	8	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	33.47	19.1
Total Live and Still Births	239	-
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under one year)	7	-
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	30.3	21.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	28.4	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	50.0	-

	<u>Herne Bay</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	21.65	-
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	16.7	-
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	50.2	-
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	NIL	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	00.0	-

(b) Deaths - General population

Male	218		
Female	240		
Total		458	-
Deaths per 1000 of the estimated population mid 1961		22.13	-
* Adjusted death rate		15.05	12.0
* The figures shown as "adjusted Birth Rate" and "adjusted Death Rate" have been corrected by comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General.			

CAUSES OF DEATH IN HELINE BAY URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1961

CAUSES	Males	Females
	218	240
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitis disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	12
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	25	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	1
16. Diabetes	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	49
18. Coronary disease, angina	35	27
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	7
20. Other heart disease	36	46
21. Other circulatory diseases	5	12
22. Influenza	4	-
23. Pneumonia	7	17
24. Bronchitis	16	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis, and nephrosis	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	-
34. All other accidents	3	3
35. Suicide	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Herne Bay is a seaside holiday resort on the northern coast of Kent, at the mouth of the Thames Estuary. Bounded on the north side by the north sea, it is almost surrounded by the villages of the Bridge Blean Rural District. It lies between the Whitstable Urban District on the west and Birchington, in the Borough of Margate, on the east; to the south, and approximately eight miles distant, is the City of Canterbury.

The town is a holiday resort, and there is considerable seasonal employment in catering for the needs of visitors during the summer months. The population figure is then almost double that of the winter residential population.

There is a large residential area in the Urban District and, as the town is within easy reach of London, many of the inhabitants travel each day to their employment in the City. The town has grown appreciably during recent years. This is reflected in the Registrar General's mid-year estimate. The electrification of the railway system has attracted many more residents and visitors to the town, which continues to expand.

In addition to the town's education and utility services, (schools, electricity, gas, water, fire, transport, local government, and postal services) there are a number of professional and commercial establishments and light industrial undertakings which provide employment. Agricultural employment is available in the rural area. It is the Council's policy to attract suitable light industries to the town to establish a more balanced community. This has met with some success.

The Kent County Council is the Education Authority for the Urban District. There are four County Primary and Junior Schools, and one County Modern School. In addition, there are independent fee-paying schools for boarders and day scholars. Herne Bay has two large convalescent homes for adults and several smaller ones for children. There are holiday homes and homes for old people and the chronic sick. The Cripplecraft Home provides occupation and welfare for the disabled. Herne Bay Memorial Hospital and Herne Hospital employ a number of nursing and domestic workers.

Metecrology

The Council maintain a meteorological station on the Sea Front and daily weather readings are transmitted to the Air Ministry. The following are the readings for the year 1961:

Period	Sunshine Hours:	Rainfall Inches:
1961	1653.1	19.75
Monthly Mean:	137.75	1.65
Daily Average:	4.35	0.05

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

All pathological and bacteriological work for the Urban District is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, Maidstone, free of charge. This is one of a chain of laboratories established by the Ministry of Health throughout the country.

Services provided by the Kent County Council under the N.H.S.A.

Health Visitors, School Nurse and
Infant Life Protection Officer.

The health visiting, school nursing and infant life protection services are carried out by the County Council, who provide the staff. During 1961 these duties were performed by Miss D.A. Tremble and Miss O. Revill.

Tuberculosis health visiting is carried out by Miss M. Brangan.

Nursing in the Home

The Kent County Council provide a free Home Nursing Service and, apart from cases of emergency and accident, a patient may obtain the services of a home nurse if requested by the medical practitioner in attendance. There are 4 such nurses in this district.

Domicilliary Midwifery

A comprehensive service is available, and two midwives are employed.

Domestic Help Service

Domestic help is obtainable for the sick, aged, and infirm, and in cases of urgent need; the scheme is operated from the Kent County Council's clinic, in King's Road, under the supervision of the Area Organiser, Mrs. A. Kingston.

District Office

The Kent County Council has established a District Office at Whitstable, where enquiries in the first place can be made with regard to the County Council Health Services.

National Health Service Act, 1946

Maintenance of the Family as an Effective Unit

The Ministry have approved the modification of the County's existing proposals, by inclusion of the following:

"The Council intends to introduce and, from time to time, develop arrangements designed to ensure the maintenance of the family as an effective unit including, in the interests of the children, the rehabilitation and training at recuperative centres of the parents, particularly the mother, and the use as necessary of the services provided under Section 22 of the Act, relating to the expectant and nursing mother, and children below school age, Section 24 relating to health visiting and Section 29 to the domestic help, family help and child help services.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Clinics continued to be held regularly throughout the year at the Kent County Council's Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay (Tuberculosis Dispensary in Cavendish Road). The following table gives the days and times when the various sessions are held:

CLINICS	SESSIONS	
	Days	Times
Maternity Clinics: Ante-Natal Clinics	Fridays	2 - 4 p.m.
Child Welfare Clinic: Vaccination against Smallpox by appointment at this Clinic. The Health Centre, King's Road.	Mondays and Thursdays	Afternoons
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunization Clinic.	Held monthly by the Medical Officer of Health, usually on middle Tuesday in month.	
B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic	Held monthly by Chest Physician at times arranged with Tuber- culosis Health Visitor.	
Poliomyelitis Vaccination Clinic.	Held by arrangements made by Medical Officer of Health, County Hall, Maidstone.	

School Health Service

Medical and dental treatment is provided by the County Council as follows:

Minor Ailments Clinic	Days and Attendance of Medical Officer
The Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay.	Every second and fourth Thursday afternoon at 4.30 p.m.

Specialist School Clinics

Attendance at these County Council Clinics is by appointment only, application for treatment being made to the County Medical Officer.

Clinics	Address of Centres
Child Guidance Ophthalmic	51 London Road, Canterbury The Health Centre, King's Road, & Kent and Canterbury Hospital.
Orthopaedic Speech Defects	Kent and Canterbury Hosp. County Clinic, 94 Whits- table Road, Canterbury.

Dental Clinic

Patients receive attention at the Dental Clinic, Health Centre, King's Road, Herne Bay, by appointment on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Clinic Services provided through the Hospital Service

The following Clinics are administered by the Hospital Management Committee of the Regional Hospital Board:

CLINIC	Sessions	
	Days	Times
<u>Tuberculosis Dispensaries:</u> K.C.C. Chest Clinic, Cavendish Road, Herne Bay.	Tuesdays	10.0. a.m. to 12.30. p.m.
Queen Victoria Hospital, Herne Bay. Refills.	Tuesdays	1.45. p.m.
<u>Venereal Diseases Clinic:</u> Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury	(Women) Tuesdays	2.00. p.m. to 3.00. p.m.
	(Men)	3.00. p.m. to 4.00. p.m.

Hospitals

The hospitals serving the Urban District are operated by the Local Hospital Management Committee, which is under the control of the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The hospitals serving the Urban District are:

Isolation Hospital:

Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

General Hospitals:

Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury

Herne Bay Memorial Hospital.

Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital.

Herne Hospital.

Nunnery Fields Hospital, Canterbury (for old people)

Development of Hospital Services

The Clerk of the Council reported in 1960 that notifications had been received from the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board about the Board's long term proposals for the development and re-organisation of the Canterbury Group of Hospitals. This was referred to in my Annual Report of 1960 but its importance is such that I feel justified in referring to it again this year.

The plan includes the following major proposals:

- 1) "The Kent and Canterbury Hospital should be developed as a 450 bedded general hospital with certain special units serving a wider area. This will require extended boilers, a new kitchen, staff accommodation, a new pharmacy, extended out-patients and casualty departments, a complete pathological laboratory, an additional operating theatre and accommodation for 200 additional beds:
- 11) When the above development takes place, Mount Hospital, Highland Court and Dane John Hostel should be closed as the facilities at present provided by these establishments will be provided in the extended Kent and Canterbury Hospital: and
- 111) The Cottage Hospitals at Faversham, Herne Bay and Whitstable, together with the St. Helier's Maternity Home, should be continued as General Practitioner Hospital with Consultant Services as at present"

The following children's convalescent home is also administered by the Hospital Management Committee:

Crole Wyndham Convalescent Home for children.

Smallpox Hospital Accommodation

The Regional Hospital Board have a scheme in operation whereby smallpox patients may be admitted to the River Hospital, (Long Reach) Dartford, Kent. No cases were notified during the year under review.

Registration of Nursing Homes Sections 187 to 194, Public Health Act, 1936

Two nursing homes were operating during 1961, and the following table gives particulars of the number of beds available.

Year 1961	No. of Homes	No. of beds provided for		Totals
		Maternity	Others	
Homes on register during the year	2	-	29	29

Convalescent Homes and Holiday Homes, etc.

There are several Holiday and Convalescent Homes in the Urban District, with accommodation for some 400 patients.

"Batesholme", Grand Drive, accommodates 20 children under the care of the A.C.C.

National Assistance Act, 1948

One burial was arranged under Section 50 of the above Act, during 1961.

Public Mortuary

The Council own an up-to-date public mortuary comprising a post-mortem room with refrigeration facilities for four bodies, also a panelled chapel and viewing room, which has independent access. Records are kept of all bodies admitted, and of post-mortem examinations. Mr. Jempson continues to maintain an attractive garden at the mortuary entrance. This he does as a voluntary effort in his retirement.

The Whitstable Urban District Council, being without a satisfactory mortuary, approached the Herne Bay Council with a view to sharing the use of the mortuary belonging to the Herne Bay Council. This was agreed, subject to satisfactory financial arrangements on a population basis. The new arrangement operated from 1st April, 1961.

During the year, 52 bodies were admitted from Herne Bay and 33 from Whitstable. Upon all of these, post-mortem examinations were held.

Schools

There are 2 independent Boarding Schools, and 2 independent Day Schools in the Urban District, with accommodation for some 555 children.

In addition there are 4 County Primary and Junior Schools, and 1 County Modern School. There are 2,190 children attending schools in Herne Bay.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred throughout the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following is a summary of the incidence of infectious diseases during the year.

DISEASES	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Measles	141	-	-
Sonne Dysentary	3	-	-
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	4	4	-
TOTALS	148	4	-

The following table gives the age incidence of the various notifiable diseases which occurred during the year.

DISEASES	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 and over
Measles	2	16	13	20	14	65	5	2	2	2	1
Sonne Dysentary	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Compared with the total number of infectious diseases notified during 1960, this year's figure has increased - (148 as against 25).

Chickenpox is no longer required to be notified as an infectious disease.

The following table shows the incidence of measles for the last five years:

YEAR	Children 1 - 5 years.	Children 5 - 15 years.	Adults	TOTALS
1957	118	164	2	284
1958	3	5	-	8
1959	135	150	1	286
1960	1	1	-	2
1961	65	70	6	141

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Certain infectious diseases are required to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health when they occur. Anthrax was added to the number of notifiable diseases, and Chickenpox was deleted, because it ceased to be notifiable at Herne Bay.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during the year 1961

Age Periods	NEW CASES:				DEATHS:			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Inward and Outward Transfers, Recoveries, etc.	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Inward transfers from other areas.	5	2	-	-
Outward transfers to other areas.	-	-	-	-
Restored to register on return to district.	-	-	-	-
Reported to be "Recovered"	1	3	-	-
Removed from register upon declining medical treatment	-	-	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1961 was:

Type of case:	Male	Female	TOTALS
Pulmonary	92	56	148
Non-Pulmonary	16	18	34
TOTALS	108	74	182

Prevention of Tuberculosis: Care and After-Care

A scheme is operated jointly by the Kent County Council and the Kent Council of Social Service for the provision of care and after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. Through this scheme arrangements are made, where necessary, for assistance to be rendered in various ways, viz., the provision of shelters; extra meat and milk, the provision of beds, bedding and clothing.

Home visiting is carried out by the Tuberculosis Health visitor for the area, who gives suitable advice to the patients.

Where there is need, help is given in housing problems, and assisting with removal expenses: the admission of patients to holiday homes is arranged; in the case of unemployment, endeavours are made to find suitable posts for patients who are fit for work; and materials are provided for recreational therapy.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 172

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1961

The following table shows the number of injections given in the various priority groups during the year ended 31st December, 1961.

Priority Group	2nd Injections	3rd Injections	4th Injections
1957 - 1961	249	215	-
1946 - 1956	101	137	-
1943 - 1945	13	21	-
1933 - 1942	92	74	-
1921 - 1932	230	221	-
Others	1	12	-
School children under 12 years.	-	-	1033
TOTAL	686	680	1033

Immunisation and Vaccination

Set out below in the charts are the diptheria immunisation, whooping cough immunisation and smallpox vaccination figures for 1961.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation (Singly or in combination)		Whooping Cough Immunisation (Singly or in combination)
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary
1961	96	-	96
1960	111	-	107
1959	21	3	12
1958	11	2	8
1957	10	7	2
1952 - 1956	25	132	6
1947 - 1951	4	9	-
TOTAL	278	153	231

Smallpox Vaccination

Year of Birth	Number vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
1961	126	-
1960	25	-
1959-57	7	2
1956-47	10	4
Before 1946	1	5
TOTAL	169	11

Prescribed Particulars on the administration of
The Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occ. Pros- ecuted. (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities.	9			
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Author- ity.	83	48	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12			
TOTAL	104	48	-	-

R E P O R T

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

HOUSING MANAGER

C. J. Clark, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Herne Bay,
Kent.

July 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present my report for the year 1961.

It is impossible to avoid some amount of repetition in an Annual Report of this kind if it is to be useful, complete, and comprehensive. A comprehensive Annual Report can provide a new member with background knowledge of the work of the Department; and it may also serve to refresh the memories of those who have served longer upon the Council.

I am conscious, however, of the irritation which can occur when a report has to be read from cover to cover to ascertain what is new.

In this report I have attempted to assist members with comments as to whether the paragraph is new, has been revised, or is repeated without revision. Should members dislike this method of presentation it can be omitted in future reports.

New legislation, which came into force in 1961, includes the following:-

Housing Act, 1961.
Public Health Act, 1961.
Factory Act, 1961.

The Housing Act, 1961, introduces a new system of housing subsidy, and some small but important amendments affecting improvement grants. There is encouragement to

landlords to improve their properties. The amount by which rent can be increased in respect of expenditure incurred by an owner upon improvements carried out with the aid of grant, is raised from 8% to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

The Act also confers upon local authorities new and greatly strengthened powers to deal with squalid living conditions in houses in multiple occupation. This is extremely important in large towns.

The Public Health Act, 1961, contains some important new provisions and some which usefully supplement the powers of local authorities under the Public Health Act, 1936, which remains the principal Act.

The Factory Act, 1961, is entirely a consolidating measure and it does not contain any new provisions.

At the annual review of office establishment I submitted a memorandum setting out the reasons why the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector had become necessary. I am grateful to the Council for granting this request for additional assistance as a result of which Mr. Maddock was appointed to commence his duties in May, 1962.

The town continues to expand and, during the year under review, 235 new properties were constructed by private enterprise. These properties are occupied mainly by new residents. No new Council houses or flats were completed during 1961 but 48 were under construction, and some were near completion by the end of the year. The Council has continued to build flats for they are cheaper to construct, and can be used to release under-occupied houses for young applicants with growing families. Those of us who are intimately concerned with housing know that a most genuine and urgent need does exist amongst young applicants living in shared accommodation with all the irritation and unhappiness which results.

The target set by the first 5 year programme for clearance of unfit houses was achieved by 1961 and a second 5 year programme was adopted. This provides for the clearance of 22 unfit houses at King's Road, Queen's Street, and William Street and will enable the comprehensive re-development of an island site which occupies a prominent position adjacent to the William Street Car Park.

A circular of considerable interest to women was sent out by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in August. It informed local authorities that the use of turnstiles at public conveniences is no longer acceptable. Local authorities are asked to remove those which have been installed, and informed that no loan sanction would be approved in respect of any new public conveniences at which it is proposed to install turnstiles. Turnstiles are an efficient method of collecting pennies and their removal entails a considerable loss of revenue. There are some who believe that all public conveniences should be provided free. That may be the ultimate solution at Herne Bay and elsewhere.

I am pleased again to acknowledge the assistance and support I have received from the Chairman, Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee, from my staff in the Health and Housing Department, and from my colleagues in other Departments.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

to 10/3/22

Senior Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE

AREA.

Water (Repeated)

The public water supply is provided by the Canterbury and District Water Company and is consistently pure. Regular and frequent samples show that it is of satisfactory organic quality and bacteriological standard.

Formerly the local supply was distributed by the Herne Bay Waterworks Company from a deep well at Ford. That Company has ceased to exist and its functions have been taken over by the Canterbury and District Water Company.

Early in 1957 a 6" main was extended from Whitstable to Herne Bay conveying water from the Canterbury supply. The local water derived from Ford is chlorinated before distribution and is exceedingly hard. For several years the Analyst has commented upon the progressive increase in salinity which has risen by 50% since 1948. The Canterbury supply has no abnormal salinity. The mixture of Canterbury water with the local supply has improved its palatability, and for a time it also reduced hardness. This no longer happens because the Canterbury supply is not now softened.

A few properties in the parish of Chislet obtain main water supply direct from Canterbury.

Examination of Water Samples (Revised)

Public Supply Samples of the public water supply were taken during the year and the following are the results of examination by the Pathologist and the County Analyst.

<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>	:	3 samples taken	All satisfactory
<u>Chemical Analysis</u>	:	3 samples taken	All satisfactory

These samples were taken after the supply had been chlorinated.

Private Wells and Springs (Revised)

Three samples of untreated water were taken from private wells etc., and submitted for examination. One of the samples proved to be unsatisfactory and unfit for drinking purposes unless previously boiled.

Number of Dwelling Houses supplied from the Public Water Mains. (Revised)

There are 8,267 houses and flats in the Urban District and all but 12 are supplied from the public water mains. Four dwellings receive a public water supply from outside standpipes. We are informed that during 1961, 2,081 yards of new water main were laid by the local Company to supply new houses and bungalows.

During the year public water supply was laid on at High Rews, Herne Common, and at Heart in Hand, Broomfield. At each of these houses there had previously been an unsatisfactory supply from a private source.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES (Revised)

The Council's modernised sewage purification works at May Street receives sewage mainly from Beltinge, Herne, and Broomfield. Sewage from the remainder of the Urban District passes by gravity or is pumped, to a disintegrator station at the East Cliff and thence to the sea.

There are now 120 cesspools which are emptied from time to time by the Council - some of these serve more than one property. There are also 25 properties served by pail closets. Two houses previously served by pail closets were provided with water closets and main drainage.

At 82 occupied dwellings choked drains were cleansed by informal means. Most of these choked drains were cleared by the Public Health Department and a charge made to cover the cost. This has been done for many years and it is interesting to note that the practice has been recognised by the inclusion of a section in the new Public Health Act, 1961, authorising local Councils to cleanse or repair drains upon request by an owner and recover the cost of so doing. Cleansing of choked drains is a service which is much appreciated by the public because it enables prompt attention to be given to a matter which should be dealt with promptly. The alternative is the slow method of serving notices upon owners, or occupiers, with inevitable delay.

At 29 properties drains were repaired or relaid by informal action.

It was necessary to proceed under the Public Health Act and carry out repairs to a sewer which is not maintained at public expense. The cost was subsequently apportioned and recovered from the owners of five houses.

Tests are carried out upon house drainage systems at the request of their owners and upon payment of the Council's fees. The charge varies from two to three guineas per test according to the size of the drainage system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS (Repeated)

The River Wantsum forms the south-eastern boundary of the district before it passes to the sea, and is free from pollution.

The brook at Hampton is sprayed in summer to prevent it becoming a breeding place for insect pests. This treatment is also applied at many ditches throughout the district.

Plenty Brook at Eddington is troublesome from time to time and occasionally nuisance arises from a storm water overflow which discharges into the water course from the sewerage system.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (Revised)

The Council's 13 public conveniences for men and women are under the control of the Health Department. These conveniences have approximately a million users a year.

Four public conveniences are closed during the winter months including those at the Pier Head.

Since the end of the war, two new public conveniences have been constructed, one at William Street, and the other at Herne. At the Pier Pavilion an unsatisfactory convenience for men has been abolished, and a major reconstruction carried out at another.

The Council has, so far, been prevented from building public conveniences at Beltinge, because of objections to the siting of the proposed conveniences. Early in 1958, a local enquiry was held at Beltinge to consider objections to the Council's proposal to construct a public convenience upon

land at the junction of Reculver Road and Terminus Drive, These objections were upheld by the Minister.

In 1961 another site was selected at Reculver Road, Beltinge, and there appears to be no local objection to the use of this land for the erection of public conveniences. Since the plot of land is larger than is needed to construct conveniences a suggestion to construct lock-up garages upon the remaining land is receiving consideration. The income from lock-up garages would make a useful contribution to the cost of the scheme as a whole.

Turnstiles at Public Conveniences (New)

Turnstiles are most efficient means of collecting pennies, and they have other advantages. They enable an attendant to regulate the flow of users at busy times, and they help to prevent malicious damage.

They are most unpopular with the ladies. however, although I have yet to receive a complaint from a man who objects to the use of a turnstile. It must be admitted that turnstiles have serious disadvantages to ladies, especially to expectant mothers, aged ladies, and those with physical disability. During 1961 on three occasions the Fire Brigade had to saw off bars to release small children who had their heads jammed in the turnstile.

Women's organisations, and women members of Parliament have at last succeeded in gaining the sympathy of Parliament. In August 1961 Circular 40/61 was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government requesting local authorities to refrain from installing any more turnstiles at public conveniences. The circular intimated that loan sanction would be refused for any public convenience scheme which includes a turnstile.

In the meantime local authorities have been asked in Circular 53/61 to remove turnstiles from existing conveniences. The pressure to remove turnstiles continues and there seems no doubt that the time is approaching when turnstiles will disappear from public conveniences.

At Herne Bay turnstiles were installed soon after the end of the last war. Four were placed at conveniences for women and two at conveniences for men.

Takings at conveniences increased 100% after the installation of turnstiles and when they are taken out we may expect a corresponding drop in receipts. Coin locks

upon individual doors are a much less efficient means of collecting revenue for doors are so frequently left open.

The Council made a start upon the new policy of abolishing turnstiles by removing the turnstile from the Kings Hall convenience for women.

Washing Facilities (Revised)

At most of the Council's public conveniences washing facilities are now available. Where wash basins have been installed paper towel machines have been provided. This arrangement applies also at conveniences where there are whole time attendants, and is a facility which is offered as an alternative to linen towels if required. In effect at these conveniences there are two kinds of washing facilities, namely, a 6d. wash with linen towel, and a 3d. wash with paper towel. This has proved popular and meets the needs of those who merely wish to wash their hands.

The "cheap" wash has considerably increased the total number of washes, and this has been done without substantially reducing the washes with linen towels. Records show that women have gone over almost entirely to paper towels, whereas the men seem to prefer linen towels when available.

There are slipper baths at two conveniences, one for men and the other for women. These baths continue to be used on an average of 600 times each year.

Staffing (Repeated)

There are now more cleaners and less attendants. Full staffing with attendants is arranged only in the summer season, and even during the summer the smaller conveniences are now maintained by visiting cleaners to save upon the expense of employing whole time attendants. During the winter all conveniences which remain open are maintained by visiting cleaners. In this way the wages bill for cleaners and attendants has been kept at a minimum - an irreducible minimum unless there is to be a serious sacrifice of standards. Reduction in the number of attendants and cleaning staff has offset the increase in wages and reduction in hours to a substantial extent.

Weighing Machines (Revised)

There are 11 weighing machines at the Council's public conveniences. 8 of these were installed in 1958 and the remainder in succeeding years.

The 11 machines cost £552 to install and by the end of the financial year 1961-62, the total receipts amounted to £1,398. This shows a substantial profit after deduction of the cost of the machines which will continue to earn revenue for many years before they will need to be replaced. It has been decided to set aside a percentage of the profits each year to build up a fund for replacement of weighing machines when this becomes necessary. Prior to the purchase of weighing machines by the Council £7 per annum was received for the concession to place privately owned machines at the Council's conveniences.

Scent Spray Machines and "Left Luggage" (Repeated)

In the summer of 1959 concession was granted to the owner of scent spray machines to install four of these at various public conveniences. The Council is not involved in any expense and it shares the takings which yields an average of £22 per annum for the Council.

A "left luggage" service operates during the summer at William Street conveniences. This yields a small revenue and is much appreciated by visitors.

Conveniences cannot be self supporting and any receipts should be regarded as a contribution towards their cost and maintenance. The revenue from weighing machines, etc., helps to increase that contribution

CONVENIENCES AT LICENSED PREMISES (Repeated)

The Council has an arrangement by which external urinals and water closets at five licensed premises are allowed to remain open beyond licensing hours for use by the general public. The daily lighting and cleansing of these conveniences is undertaken by the Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Revised)

This service is administered by the Council's Surveyor. Domestic refuse is collected weekly from dwelling houses and conveyed by covered moving-floor vehicles to the refuse tip at Broomfield. Since 1952 the tip has been enlarged by 40 acres following a local enquiry.

Collection of refuse from Hotels, Restaurants, and some trade premises is carried out more frequently when required during the holiday season.

The Health Department is informed of any defective or unsatisfactory dustbins and during 1961 eighteen dustbins were supplied by owners and occupiers upon informal intimation that such were required.

A Horsfall Incinerator was installed at the Broomfield Refuse Tip in 1961 at a cost of £210. It is used primarily for burning sanitary towels removed from the Council's Public Conveniences. These are collected and taken to the tip daily by staff of the Public Health Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA
(Revised)

Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year	5,868
Total number of interviews at the office with property owners, housing applicants, tenants, traders and others	2,229
Number of notices served - Statutory	12
" " " " - Informal	618

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS (Revised)

To Dwelling Houses :

For Public Health purposes and housing repairs	563
To inspect housing applicant's accommodation	89
" " houses for improvement grants	244
" " " " Certificates of Disrepair	4
" investigate complaints of substantial holiday accommodation	5
" inspect Council houses	215
For disinfection of premises	3
" sewerage and drainage	133
" testing drains	15
" provision of dustbins	58
" remedy of dirty conditions	10
" infectious disease and food poisoning enquiries ...	33
" disinfection of bedding and premises ...	9
" water supply	7
To flooded basements	19

To Food Premises :

For enforcement of Food Hygiene Regulations, etc.	198
" sampling of milk, ice cream, etc.	71

For Other Purposes :

For destruction of rats and mice (and survey)	2,971
" noise abatement	10
" supervision of caravan sites	75
" " " public conveniences	342
" " " mortuary	67
To arrange National Assistance Act burials	5
" Factories and Outworkers premises	48
" Pet Shops	3
" secure smoke abatement	8
For destruction of insect pests	157
" nuisances at ditches and watercourses ..	8
" abatement of nuisances (generally)	28
" " " (keeping of animals)	7
" removal of accumulations from vacant land etc. ..	26
" miscellaneous purposes	80
" Shops Act administration	121
" Public lighting and petroleum	284
Interviews at office : Public Health etc.	689
" Housing applicants & tenants	1,363
" Improvement Grants	163
" Rent Act	14

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED :

Unfit houses demolished (some orders made in previous year) ..	6
" " represented for closure or demolition	8
" " closed for human habitation	6
" " " " " " and subsequently made fit	4
Houses repaired and made fit for habitation	57
" at which minor defects have been remedied	15
" improved with the aid of Improvement Grants	31
" disinfected	8
Bedding disinfected or destroyed	8
Dirty conditions improved at dwelling houses	2
Pail closets abolished and houses provided with main drainage	2
Choked drains cleansed by informal action	82
Defective drainage systems and sewers, repaired or relaid	29
Accumulations removed	31
Dustbins provided on request to owners and occupiers ...	18
Flooded cellars cleansed after heavy rainfall	3
Statutory nuisances abated (Defects and drainage)	8
Smoke nuisances abated	8
Animal nuisances abated	4
Public water supply provided and polluted wells disused	2

Disinfestation :

Houses disinfested	3
Treatment applied for destruction of insect pests elsewhere	88
Premises treated for destruction of rats and mice	379

Food Premises - Improvements resulting mainly from the Food Hygiene Regulations

Wash hand basins installed	2
Hot water installed over basin or sink	2
Conveniences for staff - improved	1
W.C. disconnected from kitchen	1
Food storage and preparation facilities improved	2
Food preparation rooms cleansed	1
Dustbin provided	1
Accommodation for outdoor clothing	1

SMOKE CONTROL
(Revised)

Herne Bay is a residential and holiday resort with little industry so it is free from the problems of industrial smoke, with the exception of the occasional emission from laundry chimneys. At one of these an oil burning plant was installed in 1961. This has been much appreciated by the occupiers of nearby cottages who had been troubled for many years by soot and ash deposit.

Domestic smoke is a problem in every town and, even at industrial towns, it is a major cause of atmospheric pollution.

It is important, therefore, to prevent domestic smoke by the burning of smokeless fuels, and by the use of solid fuel appliances of a design which is approved by the Coal Utilisation Council.

The Council adopted the Model Smoke Prevention byelaw, which came into force in this district early in 1960.

The Byelaw requires at all new buildings:-

- (a) only such appliances for heating and cooking as are suitably designed for burning gas, electricity, coke or anthracite,

or

- (b) appliances which are approved by the Coal Utilisation Council - these will efficiently burn solid fuel with a minimum of smoke emission.

It is well to remember that smoke emission is not only bad in itself, because it pollutes the atmosphere and deposits soot, but it is a measure of the extent to which coal is wastefully consumed.

Smoke is formed of unconsumed particles of carbon, which should have been raised to ignition temperature to release heat instead of being belched into the atmosphere to waste and pollute.

Adoption of the Smoke Prevention Byelaw gives practical support to the movement to secure clean air. It will ensure that from the date the byelaw had effect all new buildings at Herne Bay are equipped with smokeless, or relatively smokeless means of cooking and heating.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, is a great help in dealing with the smoke problem. The Act has four main purposes:-

- (a) To prohibit the emission of dark smoke from chimneys, railway engines, and vessels, subject to certain qualifications.
- (b) To prohibit the installation of new industrial furnaces unless they are capable, so far as practicable, of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (c) To require that the emission of grit and dust from existing industrial furnaces shall be minimised, and that new industrial furnaces shall be provided with grit arresting equipment.
- (d) To empower Local Authorities by order, subject to approval by the Ministry concerned, to declare "smoke-control areas" in which the emission of smoke from chimneys will constitute an offence.

The Council is a member of the London and Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Council. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to encourage smoke abatement in London and the Home Counties.

SHOPS AND OFFICES (Revised)

121 visits were made to shop premises concerning the Shops Act, 1950, generally; most of these were inspected as to requirements relating to the health and comfort of shop workers. The few defects and deficiencies which were noted were remedied by informal action. 198 visits were made to shop premises for other purposes during which Shops Act matters were noted.

It was not necessary during the year to take any action concerning unsatisfactory office accommodation.

OFFICES ACT, 1960 (Revised)

This Act was passed on 29th July, 1960, and comes into force on 1st January, 1962.

It is described as an Act to make further and better provisions for health, welfare, and safety in offices; and for purposes connected therewith.

Under the Act the Secretary of State may make Regulations specifying the standards as to structure, arrangement and operation to be applied in offices for protection of the health, safety and welfare of persons employed therein.

No Regulations have yet been made under the Act.

DIRTY CONDITIONS AND
ERADICATION OF VERMIN
(Revised)

During the year 2 houses were dealt with on account of dirty conditions.

There is great improvement in the general standard of cleanliness but the occasional very dirty house is encountered. Usually it is an old person, who lives alone, and is no longer able to cope with cleaning, and is unwilling to accept help from others.

The County Domestic Help Service is available and a little regular help from this Service makes it possible for many old people to retain their independence much longer than would otherwise be possible.

Verminous houses are rarely encountered. Care is taken to avoid possibility of introducing vermin into Council houses by inspection of furniture and effects of incoming tenants when that is thought necessary.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948
(Repeated)

Tables giving the prescribed particulars required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, are included at the end of the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

These show that there have been 48 inspections of factories, and visits to outworkers homes. This was to ensure that the "outwork" (in this case the making of wearing apparel and artificial flowers) was carried out under satisfactory conditions.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES
(Revised)

The Public Health Act, 1936, provided for the licensing of caravans and sites for moveable dwellings. At Herne Bay there were 11 holiday camping sites licensed under that Act. In addition there were two sites operated by the Council at Reculver which did not require to be licensed.

In August, 1960, control of caravan sites passed from the Public Health Act to a new Act, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Tents and moveable dwellings other than caravans are still controlled by the Public Health Act, 1936.

The object of the new Act is to confer upon local authorities more effective powers for controlling caravan sites. It not only strengthens the powers of planning authorities, but introduces a new system of licensing. This is operated in conjunction with planning consideration and not separately as was the confusing arrangement when licences were issued under the Public Health Act. It was possible under that Act to grant a licence without any regard to planning considerations. Indeed, if there were no grounds for refusal, a licence would have to be granted under the old procedure even though planning consent had been refused. This was a contradictory state of affairs which produced difficulties for those who had to administer the Act. We welcome the more sensible system of licensing which has been introduced by the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act of 1960.

In the circular which accompanied the Act the Minister has stated that the aim is to secure that all caravan sites, whether residential or holiday sites, are properly equipped and run; that sites are not allowed in the wrong places but are allowed in acceptable places. The circular also indicates that where planning permission is given it should be on a permanent or long term basis unless there is some definite reason against it.

Where there is limited planning consent it is, in our experience, most desirable that the period should not be too short for otherwise the site developer is unable to incur the expenditure necessary to establish satisfactory amenities at the site. That has been a difficulty in the past when limited planning consent was sometimes as short as three years. Under the new Act 15 years is the usual period for limited planning consent. This period is sufficient to enable a site owner to obtain a return upon the capital investment necessary for the establishment of a modern holiday caravan site.

The new Act required local authorities to review all existing licences within a period of 6 months. A most important provision of the new Act is the power of the Minister to prescribe "Model Standards" with respect to layout of caravan sites, provision of facilities, services, and equipment. Local authorities, in deciding what conditions to attach to a site licence shall have regard to

any standards so specified. This applies with even greater emphasis when local authorities are considering the conditions of any caravan sites they may own and operate.

Model Standards have, in fact, been prescribed under the new Act and very briefly they deal with the following points:-

- (1) Density of 25 caravans per acre at a holiday site with spacing of 20 ft. between caravans.
- (2) Properly constructed roads with no caravan more than 150 ft. from the road.
- (3) Hard standings for caravans.
- (4) Fire fighting appliances.
- (5) Water supply with standpipes not more than 60 ft. from any caravan.
- (6) Water closets, urinals, wash hand basins, shower or baths with hot and cold water for each sex.
- (7) Laundry facilities and sinks.
- (8) Adequate surface water drainage.
- (9) Refuse bin for each caravan.
- (10) Suitably surfaced car park of an area to accommodate at least one car for every three caravans.
- (11) Recreation space equal to one tenth of the total area of the camp.

The Public Health and Housing Committee gave full and careful consideration to the new Act and the Model Standards and recommended their adoption except for hard standings, which were considered to be unnecessary at holiday sites. The Committee also recommended a slight departure from the model standards in the matter of fire fighting appliances. The Committee favour the provision at each caravan of a suitable fire extinguisher instead of the static water tanks suggested in the Model Standards.

Existing caravan sites at Herne Bay fall short of the Model Standards in the following respects. Most of them will require:-

- (a) Reduction in number of caravans.
- (b) Construction of additional toilet facilities. Provision of baths or showers and of laundry facilities.
- (c) Construction of roads.
- (d) Provision of suitably surfaced car park.
- (e) Provision of a dustbin and chemical fire extinguisher at each caravan.
- (f) Increase in the number of water points and drainage disposal points.
- (g) Some sites are deficient in recreation space and this deficiency will be automatically remedied as the number of caravans is reduced.

The Council adopted the recommendations of the Committee and in doing so decided that there should be no reduction in the number of caravans upon sites for the season 1961.

The Public Health and Housing Committee has phased the implementation of the Model Standards so that they will not have full effect until 1965. This allowed a standstill for one year and four further years for a "run down" in the number of caravans where reduction has to take place upon an existing site.

The intention is to avoid hardship to the site owner and to the caravan owner. There is a natural wastage each year as caravans are taken from a site for various reasons. These would not be replaced until the reduced number is reached. The extent to which the reduction can be achieved in this way avoids hardship.

Dustbins and fire extinguishers were provided at each caravan in the first year, (1961). Car parks, and additional water points and drainage disposal points are to be provided in 1962, and the remaining requirements of a structural nature in 1963, namely, roads, additional toilets, baths, and laundry facilities.

Each site operator is required to submit proposals for the planting of trees and shrubs. The satisfactory screening and land-scaping of a site is controlled by licence as also is the prohibition of the use of such unsatisfactory structures as railway vehicles, tram cars, omnibus bodies, etc.

The new licence conditions contain not only the Model Standards, but also the local provisions which have been found to be necessary during the many years we have had experience in the control of caravan sites.

The following table shows the caravan sites which are licensed under the new Act. The figures show the number of caravans permitted at each site and those in brackets indicate the reduction (if any) which is to take place at each site to conform to the reduced density prescribed by the Model Standards.

At some sites it will be noted that there is an increase in the number of caravans instead of a reduction. This occurs where a site is not yet fully developed or where planning consent has been given for the site to be enlarged.

REGISTER OF SITE LICENCES

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. (Section 25)

Site	Area in Acres (Unless otherwise stated)	Permitted number of caravans.	Remarks
Municipal (East)	13.5	315	(-85)
Municipal (West)	7.7	175	(-26)
Hillborough Caravan Park.	19	400	(+210)
Glen Court, Beltinge.	34,770 sq. ft. + 3,477 sq. ft. (re- creation space).	25	(-21)
Cliff Pavilion, Beltinge.	3.738	94	(-27)
Coastguard Camping Site.	1	50	(+22)
Orchard Camping Site.	2.275	57	(-19)
Reculver House.	2.702	68	(-4)
Waterways, Reculver.	3.816	95	(-28)
Hoathwood, Herne.	3.971	100	(+24)
Seaside Caravan Park	1.833	46	(-4)
Westbrook Farm.	2.6	65	(-11)
Keat Farm.	No licence yet issued.		

Municipal Caravan Park Reculver - East and West Sites (New)

This is controlled by the Camp Manager, Mr. Etheridge, who is responsible to the Foreshore and Pleasure Grounds Committee. There were meetings of a sub-committee to consider the application of Model Standards. It was decided to commence implementing these standards by providing additional water closets within existing buildings at both sites before the 1962 season.

Camping at sites which are not licensed (Repeated)

During school holidays numerous tented camps are set up by Youth Organisations which are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Public Health Act. These are generally well organised and conducted.

There are a few caravans which are not at licensed sites, and most of these are exempt from licensing requirements.

Abbotswood Estate at the West End of the town was sold as small building plots many years ago but has not been developed. There are a few caravans and a number of sheds which are used for holidays during the summer.

The Council has refused to permit any more caravans upon the site, and is to secure the removal of those which are there.

INSECT PESTS (Revised)

157 applications were received and dealt with for the destruction of fleas, flies, cockroaches, earwigs, silver fish, crickets, ants, red mite, furniture beetles, wasps and bees. Ponds and streams were regularly sprayed throughout the summer months for the destruction of mosquitoes etc.

Occasionally we are asked to give advice concerning insects which are unknown to us. These we send to the British Museum (Natural History Section) for identification. The Entomologist promptly supplies full information of life history, habits and methods of destruction, and this service is much appreciated.

RODENT CONTROL (Revised)

A free service is provided by the Council for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings. A charge is made at business premises, including farms.

During the year under review 379 premises were treated for destruction of rats and mice. All adjoining premises were surveyed to ascertain the extent of infestations reported or discovered. A total of 2,971 visits were made for survey of premises and treatment where rats were found.

Rat destruction is not a haphazard process. A standard technique is carefully followed, and advantage is taken of new poisons and improved methods as these are developed by the Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, whose assistance I am pleased to acknowledge. Efforts of neighbouring local authorities are co-ordinated and joint meetings are held from time to time.

Treatment was applied for rat destruction at :

	<u>Degree of infestation</u>	
	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>
Private dwellinghouses	13	285
Business premises	10	15
Local Authority Premises	6	23
At agricultural property	None	4

Treatment was applied for mice destruction at :

Private dwellinghouses	11
Business premises	12

A "Major" infestation is one where there are twelve or more rats; less than that number is regarded as a "Minor" infestation. It will be noted that there has been a big increase in the number of infestations dealt with - 98 more infestations than in 1960.

It was not necessary during the year to serve any statutory notices to secure destruction of rats at infested premises.

The Council's refuse tip at Broomfield is treated regularly each month throughout the year for rat destruction. A refuse tip is a special attraction to rats.

Agricultural land and premises were systematically surveyed throughout the district; at four farms rats were discovered and dealt with. Particular attention is paid to ricks during threshing, when guards have to be erected to prevent escape of rats which may be in the rick.

Accumulations were removed frequently from undeveloped land, for if allowed to remain they afford harbourage for rats and mice.

RAT DESTRUCTION IN SEWERS (Revised)

Sewers are treated regularly each year for rat destruction. A comprehensive treatment was applied to the nine sections of the sewerage system during the months of October and November. There are a total of 962 manholes, 41 were baited. These were the manholes which showed traces of rats, or were adjacent to manholes which showed rat traces when a test was applied in 1960.

Treatment of sewers for destruction of rats is considered to be important because sewer infestations so often give rise to surface infestations. If rats are to be controlled upon the surface, sewers must not escape treatment. It is fortunate for the purpose of rat control that the sewerage system at Herne Bay is composed of nine separate sections. This isolates infestations and facilitates rat destruction treatment. In four of the sections there have been no rats since 1947.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951. (Repeated)

This Act, which came into force on the 1st November, 1951, is intended to secure the use of clean filling materials for which purpose a local authority must :

- (a) Consider the granting, renewing or withholding of licences for premises relating to rag flock;
- (b) Carry out inspections of registered and licensed premises as often as may appear to be necessary;
- (c) Grant certificates of registration in respect of premises using filling materials to which the Act applies;
- (d) Take proceedings for offences under the Act.

Four premises in the Urban District are registered under the Act.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT
(New)

This Act came into force in November 1960. It defines as a statutory nuisance certain forms of noise or vibration.

During 1961 complaints were received concerning noise at a light engineering works, where it has been reduced, and at ice cream premises, where it has been remedied. Complaints were also received concerning noise and vibration from a refrigerator at a butcher's shop, and noise from a concrete mixer. These complaints were remedied.

It has not yet been necessary to serve formal notices for the abatement of noise nuisance.

HOUSING
(Revised)

Inspection, Repair, Closure and Demolition

(a)	Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts ..	216
(b)	Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	214
(c)	Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense. (Includes the houses in King's Road, Queen Street surveyed for second Five Year Programme)	9
(d)	Number of houses at which defects were remedied by informal action	72
(e)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Public Health Act and Housing Act	10
(f)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	1
(g)	Number of houses demolished (Demolition Orders made in previous years)	6
(h)	Number of houses and parts of houses closed in pursuance of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Includes basement rooms at 1 house)	6

- (i) Number of houses reconditioned and undertakings or Closing Orders subsequently cancelled

2

Notes

- (f) Demolition Orders were made in respect of
Richmond Villa, 21 Richmond Street.
- (g) Houses demolished were
27 Bullers Avenue. 220 Reculver Road.
Boarded Cottage, Herne Common. Ivy Cottage, Broomfield
1 & 2 Rose Cottages, Herne Road.
Street.
- (h) Houses and parts of houses in respect of which Closing Orders and/or undertakings were made prohibiting their use for human habitation
221 Sea Street. 28 Lower Herne.
8 Mill Lane. Hawthorne House, Thanet Way.
2a Avenue Road (Basement Woodside) Broomfield
rooms). Sunnyside) Road.
- (i) Houses reconditioned, improved and made fit after which Closing Orders, or Undertakings not to use for human habitation were determined.
2 Studds Cottages, Whitstable Road.
Chislet Mill House.
1 Hill Cottages, Herne Street.

"SLUM" CLEARANCE

THE FIRST "FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME" - PROGRESS REPORT. (Revised)

In 1955, 139 houses were surveyed and 65 of them were scheduled as unfit. They were to be dealt with by demolition or closure, during a five year period from August 1955/1960. This survey was carried out by all local authorities as a requirement of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. By December, 1960, all but four of the scheduled unfit houses had been closed or demolished. During 1961 three of the four remaining houses had also been dealt with. Over the same 5 year period a further 43 houses, which had not been included in the 5 year programme, were found to be unfit for human habitation and were closed or demolished.

THE KING'S ROAD CLEARANCE AREA
(Revised)

This Clearance Area comprises Nos. 74 - 90 King's Road (9 houses), Nos. 14 - 17 Queen's Street (4 houses), and Snows Cottage, Beach Street. It was represented by the Medical Officer of Health in June 1959 and a Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed after a local Public Enquiry.

During 1961, a start was made upon the rehousing of tenants, and it is hoped to complete this during 1962 so that the site can be cleared for redevelopment.

HERNE CLEARANCE AREA
(Revised)

There were no objections to the Council's proposals to demolish 9 unfit houses at Herne Street, viz. 1 - 4 Sheppards Cottages and 1 - 5 South View Cottages.

A Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in August and all tenants had been rehoused before the end of that year.

The site is to be cleared early in 1962 for the construction of flats.

THE SECOND "FIVE YEAR PROGRAMME"
(Repeated)

As the first five year programme was almost completed the Council was required to prepare a second five year programme for the clearance of any remaining unfit houses. It was resolved to include the following 22 houses in the new programme.

King's Road. 47, 49, 51, 53, 75, 60, 62, 64, 66,
 68, 70, 72.

Queen's Street. 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

William Street. 60, 62. (Occupied as one house),

This will enable the Council to complete redevelopment of the island site upon the King's Road, Beach Street, and Queen's Street frontage.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS
(Revised)

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

HOUSING ACT, 1961.

These Acts deal with improvement grants which were introduced as long ago as 1949 in the Housing Act of that year. For many years neither local authorities nor the public made much use of the legislation authorising the making of improvement grants despite constant encouragement by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Basically the grants are intended to be used to improve and modernise the older type of houses which are structurally sound but lacking amenities. Grants are also available for the conversion of the larger type of old dwelling which is structurally sound and can be converted to more than one separate habitation.

In June 1959 a new system of "standard" grants was introduced to supplement the existing system of improvement grants.

The new "standard" grants are available only towards the cost of installing what might be called "standard amenities" i.e.

Bath.
Water closet.
Wash hand basin.
Hot water supply.
Food Store.

Grant for a standard amenity can be claimed as a right subject to the house having a certain life, and to it being in a reasonable state of fitness for habitation. This right to a standard grant introduced a new principle. The earlier type of grant, which remains for larger improvements and conversions, is at the discretion of a local authority. It may or may not make a grant, and can decide the amount not exceeding 50% of the cost of improvement works with a maximum of £400 per unit.

The total number of applications approved during 1961 for both types of grant was 31 being two less applications than for 1960. Only seven applications were received for standard improvement grants which shows no improvement upon the figures for 1960.

The Housing Act, 1961, increases the amount of permitted increase for improvements from 8% to 12½% per annum of the amount spent upon the improvements by the owner. It is hoped this may provide an additional inducement to owners of rented properties in need of improvement.

Most applications for both types of grant are received from owner occupiers. Very few landlords will improve houses for their tenants and it seems that the object of improvement grants will not be achieved unless there is some measure of compulsion. At the Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors held at Scarborough, the following resolution was adopted.

"That this Conference re-affirms the view expressed in the resolution passed at the 1958 Conference that, the Minister of Housing and Local Government should introduce legislation empowering Local Authorities to enforce the improvement of houses so as to satisfy modern standards of comfort and convenience".

The following are the figures for 1961:-

	<u>Kind of Grant</u>	
	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Number of schemes submitted	22	7
" " grants approved	24	7
" " dwellings resulting	24	-
Total cost of approved works	£17,240	£1,055
" amount of grants paid	£ 6,285	£ 604

HOUSING ACT, 1957 - OVERCROWDING
(Revised)

1. Number of new cases of overcrowding recorded during the year 18*
2. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 12

*These do not all constitute overcrowding as legally defined.

Sub-Letting at Council Houses (Revised)

The Council makes a charge of 5s. Od. a week for permitted sub-letting at Council houses, and 2s. 6d. per week in respect of lodgers, where permitted.

In 1958 it was decided to discontinue charges in respect of aged parents living with sons and daughters with no income other than a pension from the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

By the end of 1961 there were 10 sub-tenants and 4 lodgers residing at Council houses with consent, and upon payment of the above charges.

GARAGES AND CAR PARKING AT COUNCIL HOUSES (Revised)

During the past few years the parking of cars upon front lawns and forecourts has become a growing practice. The Council decided to prohibit this parking, which damages lawns and detracts from the good appearance of the Council's estates. It has been necessary to warn tenants concerning this breach of the tenancy agreement.

The Council has provided two garages at Council houses on tenant's request. They are let at rents which will meet the rates and loan repayments. A few tenants have been allowed to erect garages.

There is need for lock-up garages and "hard standings" at all Council Housing Estates. It seemed likely that a start would be made at Greenhill where 10 hard standings and 10 garages are desired by tenants.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has intimated his willingness to give loan sanction for the purpose but unfortunately schemes have had to be deferred because of the Government's restriction upon capital expenditure.

POULTRY KEEPING AT COUNCIL HOUSES (Repeated)

Regulations continue in force for the control of poultry keeping at Council houses. The keeping of cockerels is prohibited and hens must not exceed six in number.

Hen-houses must be constructed according to a standard design.

The object of the regulations and standardised hen-houses is to ensure that poultry are not kept so as to become an unsightly nuisance, which so often happens when poultry keeping is uncontrolled.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION
(Revised)

The number of new houses erected during the year and the number under construction on 31st December, 1961, was as follows:-

Houses and flats erected by:	Number erected.	Number under construction.
The Local Authority	-	48
Other bodies and persons.	235	183
TOTALS	235	231

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION OWNED BY THE COUNCIL
(Revised)

The total number of houses and flats owned by the Council at 31st December, 1961, was 786. A further 36 houses and flats were under construction at Sussex Gardens and 12 flats about to commence at Herne.

<u>Pre-war Houses</u>	-	163
3 bedrooms	-	159
4 bedrooms	-	4
<u>Post-war Houses</u>	-	421
2 bedrooms	-	92
3 bedrooms	-	315
4 bedrooms	-	14

Temporary Prefabricated Bungalows - 49

2 bedrooms - 49

Post-war Flats - 138

1 bedroom - 52

2 bedrooms - 86

"Other" Houses, Bungalows and Flats - 15

(Properties acquired by the Council other than by new construction)

Houses - 3

Bungalows - 2

Flats, resulting from
conversion of houses - 10

HOUSING OF THE ELDERLY
(Repeated)

More than half the "waiting list" comprises elderly persons of whom there are several different types. They range from the physically capable, newly retired persons of about 65 years, to those in advanced old age often in the 80 to 90 age group.

The object nowadays is to try to enable old people to live independent lives in their own homes as long as that is possible. With a little outside help, such as is provided by the Kent County Council Domestic Help Service, old people are able to retain their independence until they reach a considerable age.

To satisfy the housing needs of old people of varying physical capacity several different types of accommodation are needed. The Council constructs two bedroom flats for elderly couples, and single bedroom flats for single elderly persons. Many of these flats are constructed at, or near, existing housing estates which makes it easier to transfer tenants from under-occupied houses when children have grown up and left home. Tenants do not mind moving from houses to flats if they can stay in their own neighbourhood.

Those in advanced old age require accommodation where they can retain independence but not live in isolation.

An attempt to satisfy such a need was the acquisition of 139 Canterbury Road, a large house which was converted into 6 - 2 room flats. Each flat has a bed-sitting room, and a kitchen/dining room. There is a bathroom and W.C. shared by three persons, on each floor.

This property was acquired and converted for the sum of £4,208, which averaged approximately £700 per unit of accommodation provided.

Hall, staircase, landing and bathroom, have been provided with floor covering and are cleansed regularly each week by the Council. Windows are cleansed, and the garden is maintained by the Council. These services are reflected in the rents which range from 16/- to 31. 4. 8, per week including general district rate and water rate.

The Council has a good record of providing accommodation for the aged and has constructed approximately 1 flat for every three houses in the post-war building programme.

The building quota for 6 years has been devoted entirely to the construction of flats.

This ratio of flat construction is in proportion to the number of elderly persons in the population of Herne Bay.

I would personally like to see yet another type of accommodation provided for elderly persons. I refer to a block of old people's dwellings with furnished communal sitting room, and a resident warden.

We could then meet the needs of more people in advanced old age who should not live in isolation, and need a little attention.

It is the only alternative to the expensive and less acceptable State "Home" for old people.

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES (Revised)

Routine inspection of Council houses to ascertain the state of cleanliness, state of interior decorations, and the general conditions of each property is necessary.

With present staff it is impossible to inspect them more frequently than once in five years.

When routine inspection reveals a house which is in need of more frequent inspection that is arranged.

It was not possible during 1961 to carry out a systematic inspection of Council houses but 215 houses on different estates were visited and inspected for various purposes.

RENTS AND HOUSING SUBSIDIES (Now)

The rents of Council houses at Herne Bay are not subsidised by direct subsidy from the local rates. A local rates subsidy was withdrawn early in 1956. The Government subsidy, which has been available for slum clearance and for construction of single bedroom flats for general purposes, will be calculated upon a new basis in future under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1961.

Subsidies are pooled to arrive at a uniform basis of rent calculation for each house.

This pooling device enables new houses and flats to be let at rents considerably lower than the economic figure having regard to the high cost of building, high cost of land, and the prevailing high interest rates.

As from April 1962 rents, including rates and water charges, will be charged as follows:-

4 bedroom houses	-	From £2. 7 9. to £2. 9. 0.
3 bedroom houses	-	From £1. 9. 8. to £2. 9. 0.
2 bedroom houses	-	From £1.17. 2. to £2. 1. 9.
Prefabricated bungalows	-	£1. 9.11.
Flats (2 bedrooms)	-	From £1.11. 2. to £1.12. 6.
Flats (Single bedrooms)	-	£1. 7. 4.
Canterbury Road flats	-	From 16/- to £1. 4. 8.

A report upon the rent revision was submitted by the Council's Treasurer and Accountant in November. This was a comprehensive history of Council house rents, and the way in which they have been determined since 1936.

The Treasurer and Accountant completed his review with an explanation of the new system of calculating subsidies introduced by the Housing Act, 1961.

It was decided to extend to pre-war houses a method of calculating rents by reference to the gross value of the house. In this way the net rent is fixed at twice the gross value and is a method which has been applied previously to post-war houses only at Herne Bay.

The application of this system of rent calculation to pre-war houses results in the substantial increase of rents of those houses. The increased rents are, however, reasonable for the accommodation offered, and are much below the rents of comparable houses privately owned. The system of calculating rents by reference to the gross value is fair because it reflects the amenities and other considerations which measure the gross value of a house.

Improvements at Council houses

There are 118 pre-war houses which are without hot water systems and do not have wash basins. It is the intention of the Council to remedy this deficiency as soon as possible. The work has been held up by the Government's policy of restricting capital expenditure. In the meantime, the pre-war houses, which lack these amenities, are subject to a rent deduction of 2/10d. per week. When the amenities have been provided the rents will be increased by that amount.

COUNCIL HOUSE GARDENS COMPETITION (Repeated)

This is a useful method of encouraging tenants to cultivate attractive gardens. At the same time it gives opportunity for members of the Public Health and Housing Committee to become acquainted with the Council's housing estates. Inspection of the gardens and judging is done by Members themselves who decide upon the gardens worthy of prizes. The first prize is a Silver Challenge Cup held for one year by the tenant having the best front and back garden. The holder also receives a cheque for three guineas. There are second and third prizes in that class and a further three prizes, first, second and third, for houses with back gardens only.

Seriously neglected gardens are also noted by the inspecting members. This is taken up with the tenants concerned and occasionally it is necessary to cut down weeds, etc., in default of a tenant who has to meet the cost.

Where there are no front boundary walls, the grass forecourts are maintained by the Council.

HOUSING OF APPLICANTS AND TRANSFER OF TENANTS
(Revised)

During the year a total of 31 houses, prefabs and flats have been let to new tenants in the following categories:-

Applicants selected from the general housing register.	18
Applicants evicted by Court Order.	5
Tenants rehoused from unfit houses.	7
Council staff.	1

All but two of these were housed at accommodation given up by previous tenants. It was fortunate that as many as 29 houses and flats were given up because it was our only source of housing supply during 1961. The two remaining tenants were indirectly rehoused as a result of 2 new flats completed at Sea Street in December 1959.

In addition to the above, 10 tenants were transferred to accommodation more suitable to the needs of their growing or diminishing families or for other reasons. 3 under-occupied houses were released for larger families.

One exchange of tenancy was permitted with the tenant of a Council house at Carshalton.

6 local exchanges were also permitted.

UNDER-OCCUPATION AT COUNCIL HOUSES
(Revised)

In November, 1959, I reported upon under-occupation at Council houses and flats.

Pre-war houses	:	40 (7 occupied by 1 person)
Post-war "	:	12 (6 occupied by 1 person)
Prefabs.	:	7 (all occupied by 1 person)
2 bedroom flats	:	35 (all occupied by 1 person)

Most of these under-occupied houses reported in 1959 have since been released for larger families by the transfer of their tenants to flats. It is hoped to arrange for another review during 1962 to ascertain the houses which have become under-occupied since 1959.

In consequence of the report, the Council adopted the following policy upon the recommendation of the Public Health and Housing Committee :

- (a) that it is considered to be the duty of the Council to ensure that none of the houses or flats under its control are seriously under-occupied;
- (b) that tenants of under-occupied premises be encouraged to transfer to smaller accommodation when such accommodation is available;
- (c) that when such transfers take place the Council pay the reasonable cost of removal;
- (d) that the compulsory transfer of tenants to smaller accommodation will be required if necessary; it is hoped that this distasteful course will be avoided by voluntary agreement.

During 1961 three tenants voluntarily transferred from under-occupied houses, which were relet to young tenants with growing families. This process of transfer to release under-occupied accommodation will continue as more flats are constructed.

SELECTION OF TENANTS (Repeated)

It is still the practice before each housing allocation to visit applicants who have been waiting for a year or more. Not only does this provide up-to-date information upon the living conditions of applicants, but it enables the housing register to be revised by the deletion of names of those who have left the district without notification, or who no longer have a genuine housing need.

RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION (New)

It has been decided to refuse admission to the Housing Register unless an applicant has resided in the town for at least 12 months. This requirement, together with the waiting period of 12 months before consideration of a new application,

ensures that at least two years will elapse before the application of a new resident will be considered. The new rule helps to prevent "queue jumping" and avoids inflation of the waiting list with names of applicants who are really temporary residents at furnished accommodation during the winter months when holiday flats are vacant.

HOUSING REGISTER (Revised)

The register at the end of the year 1961 contained the names of 384 applicants, all but 10 of whom were local residents. The 10 non-residents qualify as applicants because they are employed at Herne Bay. 118 of these applicants had registered for less than one year.

The "waiting list" is composed of old persons requiring flats, and young families requiring houses in approximately equal numbers.

The waiting list, which reached a peak of nearly 1,000 in the early post-war years, reduced to 260 by December, 1956. It has since fluctuated as can be seen from the table which follows. At the end of 1961 there were 384 names on the housing list.

The most genuine and urgent need for housing accommodation undoubtedly exists among young people who are struggling to raise families in a couple of rooms. Often these are in their parents' homes with all the friction which inevitably arises from shared kitchens, etc.

Other reasons for seeking Council accommodation have been referred to in my previous annual reports as under:-

- (a) The Rent Act, 1957, has so increased the rents of privately owned properties that Council houses are now a better proposition - better houses with modern amenities at rents which are generally lower than comparable houses privately owned.

Tenants who were prepared to endure low rented houses in poor repair and lacking in amenities have had to meet heavy rent increases and are now seeking better value for their money.

Many tenants of privately owned houses have received notice to quit and feel insecure even though some owners are disinclined to enforce eviction by taking Court proceedings. These tenants place their names on the Council's housing register.

- (b) The construction by the Council of attractive flats has stimulated a flow of new applications from many elderly people who had not previously considered applying for Council accommodation. Many of these are having to pay higher rent increases than they can afford, and others are finding it difficult to live in large houses they cannot maintain.

The following table shows the position of the housing register since 1950 :

December	1950	-	645	applicants.
"	1951	-	495	"
"	1952	-	512	"
"	1953	-	323	"
"	1954	-	346	"
"	1955	-	317	"
"	1956	-	260	"
"	1957	-	305	"
"	1958	-	355	"
"	1959	-	397	"
"	1960	-	413	"
"	1961	-	384	"

Since 1945, there have been 2,283 applicants for housing accommodation. 1,383 of these applications are now in the "Dormant File" which means that they are no longer regarded as valid applications for a variety of reasons (removed from district, now adequately housed, death, etc.)

These figures enable one to assess the significance of the number on the housing register at any time. It is that approximately half of that number will be removed from the register before they can be offered accommodation.

There was a postal check upon applicants in November which resulted in the removal of 124 names from the register.

HOUSES GIVEN UP BY THEIR TENANTS (Revised)

It will be noted under a previous paragraph that 29 tenancies were given up during 1961. This is a welcome increase upon the number of houses given up in 1960.

The total number includes 6 flats which became vacant upon the death of tenants.

As the total "stock" of Council houses and flats increases we might expect the number of vacancies to increase especially from old people's flats.

One Council tenant was evicted for non-payment of rent.

Houses given up in 1951	-	Nil
" " " " 1952	-	6
" " " " 1953	-	6
" " " " 1954	-	19
" " " " 1955	-	23
" " " " 1956	-	21
" " " " 1957	-	29
" " " " 1958	-	21
" " " " 1959	-	14
" " " " 1960	-	17
Houses and flats " " " 1961	-	29

FUTURE HOUSING POLICY (Revised)

A special meeting of the Public Health and Housing Committee is held annually to consider future housing policy.

The deferred annual meeting for 1961 was not held until March, 1962. It was decided to continue with the building of flats. These are cheaper to construct and can be used to release houses by the transfer of tenants from under-occupied accommodation.

Housing policy is still determined centrally to a large extent, and local authorities are not free to build as many houses as they wish. Quotas, introduced as an anti-inflationary measure, had not been lifted by the end of the year. The building quota for 1961 was 32 units which had to suffice for all purposes - general need and rehousing tenants from unfit houses.

It has already been mentioned that the Housing Act, 1961, introduces a new subsidy structure. Commenting upon that the Minister of Housing and Local Government made some important observations upon the purposes for which local authorities should continue to build houses.

These purposes include building for :-

- (a) slum clearance.
- (b) the elderly.
- (c) overspill.
- (d) relief of overcrowding.
- (e) relief of bad living conditions at shared accommodation.

He also intimated that there is room for a greater variety of accommodation for old people than was provided while the subsidy was confined to one bedroom dwellings.

In considering building proposals the Minister will wish to be satisfied that there is proper regard for these priorities, and that any dwellings an authority may wish to build for other purposes are required to meet a need which is truly urgent, and which it is appropriate to meet.

Construction upon the 1961 quota had not commenced by the end of the year but it is hoped to complete them during 1962. Single bedroom and two bedroom flats are to be constructed at Herne Street, Grand Drive and Clarendon Street.

High building costs, high rates of interest, and restricted subsidies are still a considerable financial deterrent to the building of houses for general purposes. At Herne Bay housing for **general** needs is now dependent largely upon termination of existing tenancies.

RENT ACT, 1957 (Revised)

This Act, which raised much controversy, came into operation on 6th July, 1957. Briefly, it decontrols certain houses and allows the rents of others to be increased, subject to reasonable repair. .

A tenant can serve upon the landlord a notice setting out particulars of the repairs considered necessary. After a period of 6 weeks, if the landlord and tenant have not agreed upon what is to be done, and no undertaking has been given by the landlord, application can be made to the Council for a "Certificate of Disrepair".

When such a certificate is granted the tenant can make certain rent deductions until it is cancelled upon completion of the necessary works. During 1957, fifteen applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair, in

1958 there were eleven, in 1959 there was one application, and in 1960 there were two applications. All of these were granted. In 1961 no applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

Repairs which a tenant considers necessary should be agreed upon with the landlord. The Council is not concerned unless application for a Certificate of Disrepair is made by a tenant who has failed to reach agreement with his landlord.

An inspection is then made, and more often than not the list of defects prepared by the tenant is found to omit important items of disrepair.

Very little use is now made of the Act by tenants to secure Certificates of Disrepair. Evictions under the Rent Act are now frequent and tenants feel insecure. They are disinclined to risk offending their landlords by applying for Certificates of Disrepair.

MILK (Revised)

The number of dairies and distributors operating in the Urban District at the end of the year was as follows:-

Registered under the Milk and Dairies (General)

Regulations, 1959.

Retail Dairies	2
Distributors with milk rounds (main trade)	7
Distributors trading from retail premises (subsidiary trade)	44

There are 44 retail premises, mainly general food shops, from which small quantities of bottled milk are sold. The number of registered dairies is reduced to two because other milk distributors now receive milk already bottled at registered premises.

The sale of bottled milk at general shops is still increasing and, as a measure of protection, traders are encouraged to keep the milk in a refrigerator or in a cool place. Any milk unsold on the day of delivery is collected by the supplier.

Much of the milk sold at Herne Bay - particularly during the summer months - is derived from sources outside the town.

Examination of Samples (Revised)

The following samples of milk were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone for examination.

Grade of Milk.	No. of samples taken.	Satisfied the test.	Failed the test.
Pasteurised Milk			
Methylene Blue test	20	20	None
Phosphatase test	20	20	None

Annual Licences to Retail Milk under Special Designations (Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested) (Repeated)

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960 consolidate and re-enact with amendments the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 to 1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 - 1953.

The new Regulations operate from 1st January 1961 and provide for a new form of dealers (pre-packed milk) licence, to be issued by the Food and Drugs Authority. Licences under the new Regulations are valid for five years.

The Herne Bay Urban District Council is not at present a Food and Drugs Authority so it ceased to be responsible for the granting of dealers Licences authorising the use of special designations in relation to the sale of milk.

The local Council remains responsible for registration of dairies and distributors of milk.

Pasteurisation Plant (Repeated)

There is a small pasteurising plant in the Urban District. It is licensed by the Kent County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority. This plant, formerly the "Holder Method" was replaced by the more modern High Temperature Short Time Pasteurising Plant in 1958.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order 1955. (Repeated)

This Order came into force on 6th December, 1955, and applies to an area which includes Herne Bay. The Order has the effect of restricting the sale of milk to that which is pasteurised, sterilised, or tuberculin tested.

Most of the population of England and Wales now live in specified areas within which only the above specially designated "safe" milk may be sold by retail.

I have mentioned this in previous annual reports but it is worth repeating because it is extremely important.

It was estimated in June 1960 that all but 5.6% of the milk consumed in England and Wales was pasteurised or sterilised.

Tuberculosis (Area Eradication) Order 1950. (Repeated)

It is interesting to note the progress made in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis from our dairy herds.

Kent reached "Attested Area" status on 1st October, 1958, and the whole of England and Wales was declared an "Attested Area" on 1st October, 1960.

This is regarded as the final stage of eradication of bovine tuberculosis in England and Wales.

This information was supplied by the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He points out that the incidence of tuberculosis in dairy herds is now extremely low and "should certainly be a diminishing factor".

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS
(Repeated)

Meat Inspection and Slaughter Arrangements

At the outbreak of war there were four licensed slaughterhouses in use at Herne Bay. By the end of 1956 there remained only one licensed slaughterhouse, and it had not been used since 1939.

That remaining licence was allowed to lapse at the end of 1959, when the ownership of the premises changed. The new owner intimated that he was not prepared to carry out the extensive alterations and improvements which would be necessary.

Licences of the four unsatisfactory slaughterhouses at Herne Bay have thus been allowed to lapse over a period of years, with no hardship or inconvenience to their owners, and no payment of compensation by the Council.

I have explained in previous annual reports the many phases which have led up to the present position. It is sufficient now to record that the Council was much concerned in the early post-war period about the four rather poor licensed slaughterhouses at Herne Bay, and about the whole question of slaughtering needs of the district.

Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959. (Repeated)

In May the organisations and butchers concerned, were asked whether they had any comment on the Council's proposed report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food about slaughterhouse facilities for the Herne Bay area. No adverse comments were received. It was resolved by the Council that the Ministry be told that in the Herne Bay area, the existing and probable future requirements for slaughterhouse facilities, are adequately met by the Canterbury Abattoir.

Meat Transport (Revised)

The transport of meat is controlled by legislation and meat vans are inspected from time to time when seen unloading in the town. Representations have been made which have secured improvements in transport and handling of meat. Some well designed vans are now in use.

Unsound Food (Revised)

During the year 808 lbs. of food of all kinds was found to be unfit for human consumption and was surrendered by various traders. Although carcasses and organs of animals are inspected at the Abattoir when slaughtered, conditions are occasionally met with at butchers shops which could not be detected at time of slaughter. I refer to such conditions as deep-seated bruising, bone taint, abscesses advanced fatty change, etc., which are dealt with by your own inspectors, both of whom are qualified inspectors of meat and other foods. The above figure of unsound food includes 228 lbs. of home killed and imported meat.

Condemned food is disposed of by burial.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Prosecution (New)

It was decided to prosecute a local trader whose assistant sold mouldy chocolate eclairs to a visitor who took them to the Police Station. The trader was fined £15 and £10.10. 0. costs.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations (Repeated)

These Regulations came into force upon 1st November, 1960. They require all butchers meat, and imported meat which is unfit for human food, to be sterilised, and all knackers meat to be stained or sterilised, before entering the chain of distribution.

This gives greater control over the disposal of unsound butchers meat, and knacker meat, much of which is supplied to retailers of pets meat. At a pet shop the retailer will have to ensure that all raw knacker meat is stained at the time of sale.

Butchers, who from time to time, may have meat in their possession which is unfit, must sterilise it, or arrange for it to be sterilised, to the satisfaction of the local authority.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960. (Revised)

In previous annual reports I have outlined the action taken since Food Hygiene Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1956. All food premises were then inspected, and they have since been revisited from time to time to secure compliance with legal requirements. The original Regulations have been amended and consolidated in the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Premises and equipment continue to be brought up to the required standard, indeed many have exceeded the minimum legal standards imposed by the Regulations.

Improvements resulting from the Hygiene Regulations are set out upon page 37 in the table headed "Summary of Defects Remedied and Improvement Effected".

198 visits were made to inspect food premises.

Offences for which warnings were given include:-

Smoking whilst handling open food	2
Delivery of unprotected meat in unsuitable van	1
Cigarette end in flour	1
Oil in bread	1
Beetles in bread	1
Dirty milk bottles	3

Food Hygiene - Codes of Practice (Repeated)

The Minister of Health, jointly with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, prepared and issued codes of practice relating to hygiene in the retail meat trade, and the hygienic transport and handling of meat. These were followed by similar codes of practice for the Fish Trade. It is hoped that these extremely useful codes of practice will be generally followed throughout the trades.

Hygiene by common consent is more likely to succeed than hygiene imposed by legislation, although it has to be available in the last resort for those who will not respond to persuasion.

Ice Cream (Revised)

Premises at which ice cream is manufactured or sold are subject to control by the Food and Drugs Act. The manufacture and sale of ice cream is also controlled by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

At the end of 1961 a total of 118 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, and two for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. Locally, two traders only manufacture ice cream, and they use the "hot-mix" method. During the year 3 new registrations were approved for the sale of wrapped ice cream.

In addition to the above, ice cream is sold at Cafes, Inns, and Restaurants, which do not require to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

"Lollipops" are manufactured at two premises, but these do not require to be registered for that purpose. It is the policy to encourage traders selling wrapped ice cream to provide litter receptacles upon their premises. This helps considerably in keeping wrappers off the pavements outside ice cream premises.

Examination of Samples (Revised)

13 samples were submitted for pathological examination during the year, with the following results :

No. of Samples.	Classification in Grades.
6	Grade I
4	" II
3	" III
Nil	" IV

These results can be regarded as satisfactory. The samples were taken from local manufacturers and from "soft ice cream" dispensers. These sources are more prone to contamination than a national brand of wrapped ice cream.

13 samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and were shown to have very good compositional quality - superior in all cases to the minimum compositional standard now required by law. Results of samples taken over the years give confidence that good quality ice cream is produced and sold to the public under satisfactory conditions of cleanliness.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, prescribes a legal minimum standard of fat 5%, milk solids other than fat $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ and sugar 10%.

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES AND OTHERS (Revised)

In addition to the registered dairies and ice cream premises already referred to, the following food premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

Premises for preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	30
Fried fish shops	4

Food premises which are not at present required to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act, include cafes, restaurants, bakehouses, confectionery, groceries, and provisions, fruit, vegetables, wet fish, etc., of which there are 282.

A total of 269 visits were made to food premises of all kinds during 1961.

PET ANIMALS ACT
(Repeated)

This Act came into operation upon the 1st April 1952. It prohibits the keeping of a pet shop, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Council.

In deciding whether to grant a licence, the Council must have regard to the need for securing that there will be provided :

- (a) accommodation suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting and ventilation;
- (b) adequate supply of suitable food and drink;
- (c) that all reasonable precautions will be taken in case of fire and other emergency, and that animals will not be sold at too early an age.

Licences designed to secure compliance with the above and other conditions, have been granted by the Council permitting the keeping of pet animal shops at three premises in the Urban District, viz.

157 High Street
144 Mortimer Street
174 Mortimer Street

HEALTH EDUCATION
(Revised)

The Council decided to become members of the Central Council for Health Education on the basis of the minimum contribution rate of 2/9d. per thousand population. The Council also joined the London and Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Council.

Mr. W. F. Weller attended a week-end school for Public Health Inspectors at Ashford.

The Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee and the Senior Public Health Inspector attended as delegates at the Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors at Bournemouth.

Local organisations have been addressed upon various aspects of the work of the Public Health Department.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957,
(Revised)

In August of 1957 the administration of the above Order was delegated by the Kent County Council to the Herne Bay Urban District Council.

The Order requires the licensing of plant to ensure the efficient boiling of waste foods intended to be used for feeding pigs and poultry.

There are two local pig and poultry keepers who operate within the scope of the Order. One has a licence to operate plant at his premises, and application had been received from the other.

PETROLEUM
(Revised)

There are 36 Petroleum Spirit stores at Herne Bay, which have to be licensed annually under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928. Fees amounting to £28.10. 0. were received in December for the renewal of annual licences. One new petroleum spirit store was licensed in 1961.

The Public Health Inspector is responsible, as Petroleum Officer, for supervising new petroleum storage installations including the testing of tanks. He is also responsible for ensuring compliance with annual licensing conditions.

Important new Regulations came into operation on 1st July 1957. These are intended to ensure that all possible safety precautions are taken at petroleum-spirit stores when delivery is made from a tank wagon to a storage tank upon the premises.

A model code has been prepared for the guidance of local authorities, in the licensing of petroleum-spirit stores. Its preparation followed a recommendation made in a report upon a serious explosion at Bristol.

It is suggested in the Model Code that Licensing Authorities should require underground tanks to be tested after they have been installed 20 years, and at regular intervals thereafter. This recommendation is carried out, for my records indicate the age of most tanks.

Most garages and filling stations now have electric pumps, flame proofed, as required in the Regulations, and equipped with limiting devices.

There are now very few commercial petrol filling stations at Herne Bay which have not been equipped with modern pumps. These were obligatory by 1960 after a period of 10 years notice.

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Births Number of	6
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Chest Physician	3
Chickenpox	17
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Minor Ailments	12
Ophthalmic	13
Orthopaedic	13
Speech Defects	13
Venereal Diseases	13
Committee, Health and Housing	1
Committees concerned with matters of Public Health	1
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